



City of Seattle
Seattle Public Utilities

Roosevelt Reservoir Out of Service – Frequently Asked Questions

Roosevelt Reservoir, located at NE 75th Street and 12th Avenue, was taken out of service on Monday, April 1, 2013. The reservoir will remain disconnected from the City's drinking water system for two years while Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) performs a decommissioning test. During this time, SPU will study the impact the out-of-service facility has on Seattle's overall drinking water system, make evaluations and determine whether Roosevelt Reservoir can be permanently taken out of service.

- 1. Is there a problem with Roosevelt Reservoir? Why is it being taken out of service at this time?** **State and Federal drinking water regulations require that SPU eliminate all uncovered reservoirs. To remain in service, the Roosevelt Reservoir would need to be covered or replaced with a new completely enclosed structure. Through a careful review of the water system, SPU has made a preliminary determination that the water system can operate reliably without Roosevelt Reservoir. However, SPU wishes to operate the system without Roosevelt reservoir for two years before making a final decision.**
- 2. Is SPU selling the property? If not, what are SPU's plans for the property should the reservoir close permanently?** **After the two-year decommissioning test is complete, SPU will determine if it needs to retain the facility for continued water operations. If SPU decides that it no longer needs the facility, there will be a public process to inform and participate in the decision-making regarding changes to or a sale of the site.**
- 3. Why will it take two years to determine the outcome or the effects of operating the water system without the reservoir?** **The evaluation period must be long enough to give SPU a chance to gain operational experience without the reservoir under different conditions, seasons and system configurations.**
- 4. Does closing the reservoir pose any safety concerns or risks to the public?** **No**

5. How will the facility be maintained once it is out of service? **While the reservoir is out of service, SPU will continue to monitor the facility, and crews will maintain the grounds — removing debris and performing other maintenance tasks as needed.**
6. Where will customers who previously received their water from Roosevelt Reservoir get it now? **From Maple Leaf Reservoir a short distance north of Roosevelt Reservoir.**
7. What will the reservoir look like once it is out of service? **Roosevelt Reservoir is drained annually for about one month each year, so it will look the same as it has on those past occasions. The reservoir is a large concrete basin with sloped sides, about 20 feet deep, and lined with black high-density polyethylene (HDPE) material.**
8. Will closing the reservoir cost the City more or less money? **If the reservoir is permanently closed, it could save a significant amount of money. This is because the expense of upgrading the reservoir to a covered storage facility, which could cost between \$10 and \$50 million depending on the technology chosen, would be avoided.**
9. Are other City reservoirs being considered for decommissioning? **Yes. Volunteer Reservoir is under consideration to be permanently disconnected from the water system.**
10. How will SPU keep the public informed about the status of Roosevelt Reservoir and plans for the property? **Current information about all of the City's reservoirs, including Roosevelt, can be found on SPU's Web site: www.seattle.gov/util/myservices/water/watersystemprojects/reservoircovering/**
11. Who can I contact, if I have additional questions or want more information about Roosevelt Reservoir? **For more information about Roosevelt Reservoir, contact Cyndy Holtz, SPU Drinking Water Division, at 206-386-1990 or cyndy.holtz@seattle.gov.**